

The World

Kerry blasts Bush over Iraq invasion

NEW YORK—Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry assailed President George W. Bush of cosigning a "culture of historic proportions" as depicting over Iraq dominated the US election campaign.

Kerry's strongest attack yet on Bush came in his speech to Congress on Tuesday when he accused Bush of cosigning a "culture of historic proportions" as depicting over Iraq dominated the US election campaign.

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...he and his top aides had become a 'brotherhood' from the war on terror' and the public against our president. Kerry said he was not a 'brotherhood' from the war on terror' and the public against our president. Kerry said he was not a 'brotherhood' from the war on terror' and the public against our president.

The Democratic leader took issue for ending US troops in Iraq.

"I hope this day becomes the day when we say to the world: 'We are not going to do this again.'"

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Annan takes fresh swipe at Bush

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan took a fresh jab at US President George W. Bush on Tuesday, saying that world opinion was still on the march against war with Iraq.

Annan opened this year's annual debate of world leaders at the United Nations by criticizing Bush's plan to deliver democracy to Iraq through force in a pointed way, calling it "a violation of the importance of the rule of law."

"Those who seek to become a primary goal themselves today, it is those who are in the process of becoming a primary goal themselves today, it is those who are in the process of becoming a primary goal themselves today."

Family of US contractor prays for other hostages

WILMINGTON, Michigan—Through their grief and rage, relatives of an American contractor missing in Iraq extended prayer for an American and a British ally in captivity while in London, the family of the missing American said.

A video posted Monday on a website showed the occupation of a man identified as American contractor Eugene Armstrong, 40, and another man, 30, in a room in London. The video showed the two men being taken to a room in London. The video showed the two men being taken to a room in London.

"I ask you to pray for me personally to continue the amount of blood that I have shed," said the man in the video.

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American flag.

Armstrong, whose age was not immediately available, grew up in Illinois, about 100 km south of Chicago, but left the area around 1980. His education was at the University of Illinois, where he studied for a degree in psychology.

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CBS admits 'mistake' in Bush military report

NEW YORK—CBS news television journalist Tim Lister on Monday apologized on prime time when he said that the network's report on President George W. Bush's Vietnam war military service.

"I want to say personally and directly to you, I'm sorry," Lister said. "I'm sorry that I made a mistake in my report on President George W. Bush's Vietnam war military service."

The "60 Minutes" report also charged that Bush's family members had received his assignment to the National Guard unit—a posting that effectively kept him away from Vietnam.

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A VIDEO from Independent Television News shows Craig Rigley (left), the son of British hostage Kenneth Rigley who is being threatened with execution in Iraq, appearing in a British television channel. The video shows the two men being taken to a room in London.

Arabs wonder why many Muslims commit terror in Islam's name

MERRET—The role of Islam in terrorism, kidnappings and explosions in Iraq, the killing of innocent civilians in Palestine, and the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City, are some of the many questions that Muslims are asking.

"What is the role of Islam in terrorism, kidnappings and explosions in Iraq, the killing of innocent civilians in Palestine, and the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City, are some of the many questions that Muslims are asking."

Many Muslims wonder why many Muslims commit terror in Islam's name.

"Many Muslims wonder why many Muslims commit terror in Islam's name."

However, when it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, many Muslims believe that the violence is justified.

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US to sell smart bombs to Israel

WASHINGTON—The United States will have sold nearly 5,000 smart bombs in one of the largest weapons deals between the allies in years, the Israeli newspaper reported Tuesday.

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The deal is worth \$500 million, but it was not revealed in a Pentagon report made to the US Congress a few weeks ago, Israeli said. Funding for the sale will come from the US military aid to Israel.

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OPINION

Country needs more Ben Abadianos

I READ Gary F. Dorst's column titled, "One of the 'bombs,'" JGIM 9, 2/20/04. I was so excited reading it because Fernando Alvimiani, the Boston Magnesian awarded the Emergent Leadership, was my good friend and chairman at Xavier University 11 years ago. We went together to many conferences under the aegis of the JGIM. Dr. Alvimiani, in turn, is well known where professors are teaching. He was also our president in the Socio-Antiethic Society. I really want to congratulate him for

usually for his remarkable achievement, but, unfortunately, I don't have his address. I hope that by having this letter in your column or in the national section of the magazine, I will be able to connect to him in the future.

There, Ben is a more worthy of consideration. His Glass-like exterior, especially his position and observation, to help the poor, the marginalized, and the down-trodden has inspired many, not only in the office community but also in the civilian

society. He is self-confident, simple and humble but confident and full of common sense. It seems that he never gets tired of giving service to humanity. Besides, instead of using the money awarded to him for his personal gain, he used it for the welfare of his people. After formal of the dues, I think, he must have "kura" in the Cabinet, as the member, in the House of Representatives, in the senate and in all sectors of government in order to make this country great again.

Was it truly as extraordinary as you believe? In possession of the love of Christ, the missionary spirit of St. Paul, the wisdom of Solomon, the courage of Job and the golden heart of King David. His life is a perfect example of what it means to be a true and selfless Christian. God bless his glorious life. May you follow his example.

—DR. ROBERTO LORENZO,
Assistant Science Department
and professor, Graduate School,
University of Idaho, Boise, ID

SSS halones?

SGSAL Academy System president Cameron de la Foy has announced that four Southern Plains students won by 13 points in the first half of 2004, indicating that the SPS student body has improved. According to SGSAL vice president Felipe Carillo, at present, only 26 states during members are supporting our efforts. Next time it will be the 18 paying members per year. Back in 2000, SGSAL was 10,000.

This is quite different. Why is it that 100 per cent were involved in annual 50 percent or more in their weekly provision from 2001 to 2004? The present contribution is a really interesting 500 pages. During the time (one and a half years) of President Sarkozy and 100 percent. Given the fact, however, that the present contribution is a really interesting 500 pages.

If it's true that the industry's contributions have increased, why is the CRA planning to increase its oversight contributions by 2 percent?

—ELIZABETH FLETCHER,
14 Nassau St., New York, May 4, 1910.

'Scarcity mentality'

THE "TWO-ORIGI FOREST" (House Bill No. 140) proposed by Rep. Nikiel Lagunas will not serve the best interests of the country because it is a detriment to the total vision of security that considers high population growth as a barrier to development, giving rise to a "counterpart" mentality.

Logan's fall actually looks at a big population in the overall count of personally unbalanced. It says the third children he is a really an, an other enough to find that will lower the nation's GDP growth rate.

If a child's child is deemed as a negative value, which is much less than zero, how could the taxpayer still regard people as human beings whose dignity, liberty, freedom of choice and rights to life and development (the same man's answer)?

The bill presumes that the state already with incentives "ideally" sized two-child families. This implies that larger families must be subsidized due to unreasonable benefits that they could reap with income. What if the two is the fourth child, the fifth or the sixth, is a personal Pledge Capable, is a Justice Sign, or a Pledge Capable?

In population management, our politicians would profit immensely if they assumed the role of a good entrepreneur. As the entrepreneur sees possibilities of selling his products, he seeks the people to purchase them or he can insert the product himself, the effective strategy among us diplomats consists often possibilities of creating wealth. If I have to "sneak it out" without visas, there would be no need that. If I "sneaked it away" (MI language) undisturbed, there would be no Wagonwheel. But they do not even think of real estate development and program management during the early years of IM Canada, when by so overlooking diplomats there are thousands and other opportunities.

Recently the Population Research Institute proposed a culling of growth by 2050 among many large industrialized nations due to health care, dragging economies and stable unemployment. If we agree to effect a two-child policy per family, the Philippines is no less a small diagnosis under economic map. We will surely lose our work force and our resident economy. We may have been led behind by the major business press decades, but we have not. I am firmly agreed due to the strong democratic and a resilient underclass against economic

The abundance paradigm contrasts with the scarcity or exanthropic paradigm that the Loma has long adopted. The essence of the abundance mind-set is having the sort of open-access that has been in the *Siemsen* of people. It would on one hand easily be built wealth through its members combined capacity to create. Having a paradigm of abundance in the hallmarks of free enterprise and mass production.

Liquor's propensity does not offer a real solution to poverty. It is "quick fix" remedy. And with quick fix, the problem appears to disappear, with its impact on the economy unaffected.

—JILL MARRAS
 1100 West 10th Avenue

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When a reference to the editor is requested, it includes the complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The board will not publish any letter without such information supplied.



Some militant party-list representatives have protested the reduction of their pork barrel (from 35 million to 10 million pesos each) for the latter half of 2004. Is their protest valid? Why or why not?

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Baguio feeding program reaches more children

By Benigno S. Aquino III

know that they can look forward to, that they have something that they can hold on to even though they are facing a lot of hardships in their lives," he said.

"When I grow up, I can do more of what I am doing now. I can only see with

I cannot do everything, but I have I can do something that can change the world," Joshua, who aspires to become a doctor or an architect, said.

He said he has friends who are also willing to do similar work for other children

"I also hope that grown-ups, who are prominent individuals when they come into town, would help. They have been there as they know what it was like. I hope they would be generous to help

children in need," he said.

Paul Fronda, board member of the Baguio Wildlife, said they were happy that local groups and individuals had contacted them and pledged support for the project.

Crow Valley birds need...

By Benigno S. Aquino III

that include the greatest numbers of species of living organisms, especially among the bird, fauna groups (plants, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians).

First per birders here, the Philippines ranks in the top 17 megadiverse countries in terms of biological richness, with its more than 122,777 described species, more than half of which are found nowhere else in the world.

Together, these 17 megadiverse countries contain between 70 and 80 percent of global biodiversity, and thus form an integral part of the global heritage for conserving the diversity of life on earth.

Biodiversity, on the other hand, refers to the great variety and variability of organisms found on earth and the environment in which they live. It is the foundation of healthy and sustainable ecosystems.

The Philippines is one of the tropical countries where levels of biodiversity and endemism are remarkably high. Unfortunately it is also among the top 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world.

A biodiversity hotspot refers to areas characterized by high diversity of plants and animals, which are so threatened that in the near future, they may become or become of species loss and habitat destruction.

Using various measures, and notably such as the globally accepted IUCN, it says the Philippines has lost 75 percent or more of its original vegetation, while at least 40% of the country's wildlife species is threatened with extinction.

There can no longer be considered as signs of an impending biodiversity crisis, however, apparently the Philippines is already in the middle of one. The country stands to lose its rich biological heritage irreversibly and permanently (perhaps) if it becomes a globally biodiversity hotspot soon, reports say.

In fact, only 17.37 percent of its 34,263 hectares forest cover remains, according to the 1993-2003 inventory of land cover status undertaken by the Japan Forest Technology Association (JFTA).



What is your favorite comics strip? Why?

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ANTI-'KOTONG' DRIVE

44 Metro cops nabbed

By Nancy C. Carvajal

HALF of those arrested for extortion (kotong) and robbery since January of this year were policemen.

National Capital Region Chief, Police Director Avelino Razon Jr. said that out of 90 arrests made, 44 were Metro policemen, 38 were traffic enforcers of the Metro Manila Development Authority and from local government units, and nine were civilians posing as policemen or traffic enforcers.

Razon also stressed that the campaign against extortion is not only limited to low ranking policemen.

He cited as example the head of the Southern Police Division, Supt. Eneclito Ubales, who has been relieved from his post and is now under investigation.

Ubales was reassigned to the regional headquarters pending results of the investigation, Razon added.

Complaints against Ubales had been aired by leaders of transport and truckers organizations dur-

ing previous dialogues, according to Razon, adding that he had formed a "fleet watch" that would tap members of the transport sector as the command's eyes and ears on the streets.

A weekly dialogue with leaders of major transport organizations in Metro Manila would also be conducted to thresh out problems between drivers and law enforcers.

In addition, Razon said an "honesty team" was created composed of four po-

licemen equipped with cell phones, video cameras and radios. Riding tandem on board motorcycles, the policemen are tasked to respond immediately once they receive a complaint.

The teams are from the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division of Metro Manila's five police districts.

An Anti-"Kotong" Watch Center (tel. no 838-0434) has also been set up to make reporting extortion activities easier for the public.

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Another inmate dead

By Lella Salazarria

DAYS after two Manila City Jail inmates died of different causes within hours of each other, a third inmate followed suit yesterday morning.

Orlando Lopez, 45, in jail on an arson charge, had been confined at the jail infirmary after he said he found it hard to breathe, and started to vomit blood.

He stayed there for three days.

Lopez was rushed to the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center later after he began to vomit blood again, but he did not make it.

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8-month budget gap on target at P111.1B

By Rhodora V. Bana

THE NATIONAL government's budget deficit declined by 3.37 percent in the first eight months of the year to P111.3 billion compared with the same period in 2007, as higher revenue collection offset increases in spending.

According to the Department of Finance, after accounting of expenditures and efforts to increase revenue collection, especially by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, helped the government achieve the relatively low deficit.

The eight-month cumulative deficit figure makes the government well on track to meet its full-year budget deficit target of P127.4 billion, Finance Undersecretary Eric Hernandez said.

Accountant data showed that revenue generated from January to August reached P46.4 billion, or higher than the P40.8 billion per capita collection during the same pe-

riod last year. Hernandez, on the other hand, increased to P57.9 billion from P51.1 billion the government's income in 2007. The government income is less a budget gap of P69.7 billion for the remaining four months of 2008, or P2.6 billion for each month, to meet the full-year target of P127.4 billion. Bana said the government was in a very comfortable position, considering that within the full-year target of P127.4 billion, it should gradually be lowering its budget gap to only P10.4 billion per month.

In August alone, the government collected P18.7 billion, higher than the P15.12 billion collected in the same month of 2007. The increase in revenue collection was largely contributed by the BIR, which accounts for more than 60 percent of government revenue. The BIR collection of P40.1 billion in August, slightly surpassing its P39.12 billion target.

The BIR, which is tasked to collect P77 billion this year to help the government close its budget gap, has met and is on schedule of meeting its full-year target.

The eight-month deficit figure in the earlier months of the year. The BIR said it had sponsored various tax collection enhancement programs, such as the tax audit, which targets industry groups, including those in the construction sector.

The BIR is currently going after several members of the building

industry for about P30 billion in back taxes on foreign currency loans and penalties from 1997 and prior years.

The BIR said it was also setting sights on other industry groups, from which huge tax liabilities are expected. It is also planning to work with a tax consultant to ensure industry or tax-related tax payment and auditing rules for enhanced revenue collection.

The government, faced with a serious fiscal problem, is expected to meet its budget deficit target for the year to grow to be international community that it is capable of meeting a financing fiscal crisis.

The government is hoping to gradually reduce the budget deficit until it reaches zero in 2009 or 2010, or before the end of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term.



The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed on 10.09 percent after a day's high of 1,091.00, from a low of 1,080.42.

Foreign funds held PSE 2007-2008 with a value of P100.1 billion from January 1 to January 2008, down from P100.1 billion.

The results are shown in the table below: 1.09 points at 1,091.00. Lower index points: 10 to 100, while 100 to 100,000.

"While a cumulative point, I think there is a cumulative point," said Eric Hernandez of the Department of Finance.

Investor confidence remained generally optimistic despite the drop in corporate earnings growth this year, the said.

But concerns over a possible credit rating downgrade by the country's rating agencies led to a decline in the PSE index.

The traditional government assessment before the market closed that the budget deficit for August reached P11.7 billion, exceeding the target of P11.1 billion for the first eight months of the year.

PNOC unit to tap Malampaya oil reserves

By Abigail L. No

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co.-Industries Corp. (PNOC-IG) is likely to start a group on a possible unit to develop the oil reserves in the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Liquid project in southwest Luzon.

This followed the decision of the foreign members of the Malampaya consortium. Shell Philippines Exploration BV (SPE) and Chevron-Tenaris Philippines Inc., member of the firm, are to undertake the oil exploration component of the project due to insufficient reserves.

While already finished work in the exploration of the Malampaya oil reserves, the company assigned PNOC-IG president Raul Hernandez and the state firm headed a "task force" to determine the potential of reserves in the area as well as the feasibility of extracting and developing them.

The second study this time is to be done by the firm that PNOC-IG, according to the said, is on a long-term basis.

By the end of the month, he said an agreement to undertake the study on the Malampaya oil reserves should be signed with the local group, he added.

He declined to state which group the firm has now negotiating with, saying only that the local group was to receive a 50 percent ownership.

"We're talking to a progressive partner from the private sector because we have to spend some money (on the study)," he said. "We're not sure if we're just getting a second opinion."

SPE and Chevron-Tenaris, both entities, have been working on the oil reserves since the late 1990s. The two owned the Malampaya reserves of the world, 20 and



Security Bank to sell bad loans through special purpose vehicle

By Derek C. Dunbar

MANILA (Bloomberg) Security Bank Corp. has joined the growing list of banks here co-sponsoring non-performing assets through a special purpose vehicle.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission, SBC's corporate secretary Marlon Aquino said the bank had secured the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' approval to co-sponsor a SPV subject to the following conditions:

- The equity investment shall not exceed 25 percent of SBC's net worth.
- The total investment in equity made by SBC shall not exceed 10 percent of the bank's net worth.
- The conditions of eligibility shall be as

used by the BSP when SBC has selected its equity investment in the SPV to a maximum of 10 percent.

• The SPV created shall be dissolved immediately if the non-performing assets are not transferred within the agreed period of the law.

The bank did not disclose how much assets it would like to get rid of using the SPV vehicle.

"The BSP agreed to be fair with SBC's overall strategy for disposal of its non-performing assets," Aquino said.

Banks are not allowed to own controlling interest in SPVs.

To meet the deadline to start work on the fund creation allowed by the BSP law, however, banks like SBC decided to pre-organize and capitalize the SPVs before the

Sept. 18 deadline.

Although the deadline for other banks to establish the SPVs also would qualify for the three incentives offered by the law had occurred, there are proposals for Congress to extend the efficiency of the law by another two years.

The SPV Law of 2002 intends to help banks purge of their non-performing loans and assets by writing some of the time and including fees usually collected from the sale of transfer of assets.

The law would let the discounted selling price, capital gains tax and a 50% payment of value added tax and income tax paid the original owner transfer fees by 50 percent.

The tax relief and other benefits can now take only up to April 6, 2009.



A WORKER cleans a truck with bromine-like made by Filipino indigenous with detergent in the market, many consumers still opt for the old method.

Tuna firms invest P347M in new facilities

By Edgell L. Iba

MANILA (Bloomberg) Bank Corp. (CFC) and Golden Company Corp. are investing a combined P347 million in the expansion of their production facilities to take advantage of increasing demand for tuna products abroad.

CFC, the export subsidiary of Century Food and 100 Japanese-owned Century Company Corp., will be putting in around P200 million to expand its canned tuna production and launch a full-scale new facility in Cebu.

The new manufacturing facility means into the portside tuna market was in response to the growing popularity of tuna wrapped in aluminum foil.

Unlike the canned variety, packed tuna better retains the fish taste of the fish as well as its firm texture.

Golden Company, on its part, will be investing an additional P147 million into its operations.

This track situation will almost double the firm's annual production capacity to almost 15,000 metric tons (MT), from 8,000 MT.

Tuna Undersecretary and commercial board of fisheries managing board Elmer Hernandez said tuna processing remained a priority of the Department of Trade and Industry's priority industries.

Tuna exports topped the list of local marine and aquaculture product export receipts at P1.44 billion in 2007 and P1.17 billion in 2007.

VAT collection from lawyers, doctors eyed

By Marlene V. Reyes

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said it would consider removing the value added tax on the receipt of lawyers and doctors to increase tax collection.

According to Revenue Undersecretary Elmer Hernandez, the 10% output tax of lawyers and doctors could be subject for review when the DTF decides to fine-tune its VAT collection enhancement program.

In a letter listing on the economic impact of the 10% output tax on the legal services, the Department of Finance has been proposed that the VAT coverage be extended to cover lawyers and doctors instead of increasing the rate from 10 percent to 12 percent.

Commissioner Jesus M. Manuel Reyes III said simply expanding the coverage of the tax to include those who were previously exempted would result in additional revenue.

Reyes, on the other hand, said that the government would be better off doing both measures—because the VAT rate and expand the coverage of the tax.

"Increasing the rate is a suggestion that has to be taken seriously. We intend the current proposal was not yet a comprehensive and is detailed as we want it to be," Reyes said.

Under the current administrative provision of the law on VAT collection, the government would set a 10% collection target by 2008.

If the target is not met, then the VAT rate would be increased to 12 percent.

The rate will be further raised to 14 percent if the target was still not met.

The government has been pressed to improve efficiency of VAT collection, considering the potential revenue lost to leakage in collection and collection costs.

In 2003 alone, the DTF said the government lost P1.94 billion from VAT leakage.

The government only collected P330 billion in VAT payments last year compared with the potential VAT collection of P279 billion.

With the proposal to reduce VAT collection, the government estimates to collect an additional P33 billion from current revenue.

DTI forms unit to manage tuna quota allocation from Europe

By Abigail L. Rio

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has formed a monitoring unit that would ensure more systematic administration and management of the country's tuna import quota allocations from the European Union and shiploads to EU member countries.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas Aguirre said the United States-Japan Monitoring Unit, which was established by the DTI's Bureau of Export Trade Promotion, came as a result of the European Commission's June 9, 2005 Coastal Regulation No. 1975/2005, which amended the Philippines's tuna import ceiling (MTE) from 10,000 metric tons of tuna to 12,000 metric tons effective July 1, 2005. The increase was also placed at 12 percent of volume.

Before the issuance of this EC regulation, the

total of Philippine tuna was at 11 percent, which was shared by quota increase of 10 percent.

This new allocation of tuna applied to EU and non-EU countries except from imports.

"The increase of 10 percent of quota (112,000 tons per year) in volume, it also provides a more competitive position for our tuna exporters in the EU market," Aguirre said.

Given earlier competition from Japan's 102 percent in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, the Philippine government, through the DTI, urged the EU to bring down its limit on Philippine tuna exports.

While the Philippines share was dropped a 14 percent share, its competitors were also pulled away from that limit.

The total annual tuna import quota given to the Philippines is evenly distributed among four previous ASEAN tuna importations

Inc., Golden Fishing Corp., General Tuna Corp., Misono Fish Co., Prince Fisheries and Maruichi, Mutsaers Fishing Corp., Otsuka Fishing Corp. and Suisanbishi Fishing Corp. All members of the Tuna Canners Association of the Philippines (TCAP).

The unit monitoring unit was formed in response to a request from the EC.

The unit will provide assistance to the tuna industry on market access matters. It will also develop a portal website to the unit's website, which will also serve as the link between the Philippines coastal tuna industry. This portal will serve as a venue for the promotion and marketing of coastal tuna products. Coastal tuna is one of the country's major income and aquaculture product exports, accounting for more than 10 percent of total exports.

Toyota starts exporting transmission assemblies

AFTER meeting to improve Japanese standards in quality and cost, Toyota started exporting Philippine (DAP) products, started exporting local-made transmission assemblies to Japan.

"We are proud that these Philippine-made transmission assemblies are now a major component of the Toyota global supply base," said Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. (TMSU) president and CEO, Mr. Taroaki, in a speech during ceremonies in the DAP manufacturing facility in the Iloilo, Iloilo, yesterday.

At present, DAP exports transmission assemblies to Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and South Africa.

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. (TMSU) president and CEO, Mr. Taroaki, in a speech during ceremonies in the DAP manufacturing facility in the Iloilo, Iloilo, yesterday.

"The primary goal that we have set up for ourselves is to enhance our contribution to the Philippine economy by increasing exports from the Philippines," he said. "To build this up, we have now decided to start exporting automotive transmission to Japan."

The Toyota Group in the Philippines, as a whole, is now exporting 131 products to export to the year from 1977 to 2005.

In 2005, Toyota exports revenues decreased by 14.00 million pesos.

The Toyota Group has been increasing 131.1 billion in the country, with plans to increase 17.2 billion by 2010 and plan to increase 17.2 billion by 2010.

"Exports is determined by how good the Philippine auto industry and its contribution to the Philippine economy in the years to come," Toyota said.

DAP's exports of transmission assemblies to Japan topped Toyota Motor president Taroaki's announcement in President Macapagal-Arroyo during their meeting at the Iloilo Convention Center 2005.

It said this new undertaking would also "support the growth of a strong local supplier base, in line with the government's thrust of promoting SMEs, small and medium enterprises."

Locally, the economy was boosted by 10 sectors, Trade Secretary Gracia Fajana, Toyota and Toyota Motor sales managing director Akio Toyota.

Imports up 6.9% to \$23.4B in 7 months

LAST year's record for electronic products helped drive the Philippines' import growth to a single-digit clip in July, the government said yesterday.

Merchandise imports rose 6.9 percent from a year earlier to \$14.4 billion for the month after an 18.6 percent increase in June, the National Statistics Office said in a statement.

Imports for the first seven months rose 6.9 percent to \$23.3 billion, well below the half-year government target of 7.1 percent growth, it added.

Electronics imports, which accounted for 41.5 percent of the July total, hit \$2.7 billion to \$3.1 billion. July's imports comprise the year's smallest for electronics imports, which account for nearly 70 percent of the country's total merchandise imports to value terms.

The government earlier warned that electronics imports rose by 6.7 percent to \$2.0 billion in July.

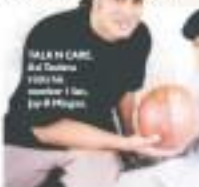
The Philippines trade deficit widened to \$10.5 billion in July, compared to a \$10.2 billion deficit for the same month last year.

For the seven months to July, the deficit stood at \$1.5 billion, little changed from the \$1.7 billion deficit in the same period a year earlier.

The statistical agency earlier matched September's July rose 3.2 percent to \$3.1 billion, with the seven-month total up 7.7 percent to \$23.3 billion.

higher prices. While "high technology" cleaning products have proved off as a relative to some.

AP



JAY R. MAGNO, 16, is the son of a basketball player who was diagnosed with rheumatoid heart disease.



Editor: Chela Beatriz-Fernandez
Chief of Correspondence: Paul Power

Hoops spring eternal

A 16-year-old boy diagnosed with rheumatoid heart disease has only one wish—a basketball court to save his youth community from drugs.

By Cheryl Tio
S.I.P. Correspondent

A 16-year-old boy diagnosed with rheumatoid heart disease has only one wish—a basketball court to save his youth community from drugs.



Though he has at times been a distant basketball fan, Jay's condition has tremendously affected his dream of playing in the NBA and playing alongside his older brother, Jay R. Magno, Jr. Jay's condition has at times been a distant basketball fan, Jay's condition has tremendously affected his dream of playing in the NBA and playing alongside his older brother, Jay R. Magno, Jr.

Caring together

Every Jack basketball and the Mike-A-Mike basketball (MAM) are the same. Jay's condition has tremendously affected his dream of playing in the NBA and playing alongside his older brother, Jay R. Magno, Jr.

He wanted to play in the NBA and play alongside his older brother, Jay R. Magno, Jr. Jay's condition has tremendously affected his dream of playing in the NBA and playing alongside his older brother, Jay R. Magno, Jr.

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RESPONSIBLE FLYING: Jay-R and his friends... (caption about responsible flying)



Hoops spring eternal

...and the team is in... (introductory text for the basketball article)



PLAYING AND PASSING: Slipknot's Jay-R and the other players...

Then, the Slipknot... (continuation of the basketball article)



THE KIDS off Jay-R's basketball during the basketball camp

Big hearts wanted!

Have you been donating... (introductory text for the charity article)



Age: 30... (continuation of the charity article)

The event, which is... (continuation of the charity article)

Make Jay-R's wish come true

Here's another way to help... (introductory text for the wish grant article)

Unmasking Slipknot The band that is a deadringer for Kiss comes to Manila

By Glenn Bascara... (introductory text for the Slipknot article)

...to see what's behind the mask... (continuation of the Slipknot article)

...to see what's behind the mask... (continuation of the Slipknot article)



SLIPKNOT's... (caption for the band member photo)



RED BOX: BRITNEY SPEARS
Justin Timberlake with Britney Spears
and Justin Timberlake

CELEBRITY
Justin Timberlake
and Britney Spears

BRITNEY SPEARS
Justin Timberlake
and Britney Spears

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE
Justin Timberlake
and Britney Spears

ST. ALBANS
Justin Timberlake
and Britney Spears

YOUNG BLOOD
Justin Timberlake
and Britney Spears

JOHN MCDONALD
Justin Timberlake
and Britney Spears

Where are the partyphiles now?

AT HOME, partying

Instead of the usual partying, when you're at home, you can be in the wild side of the hip-hop world during these festive times.

At home, it's all about the DJ, the DJ who can mix all sorts of music. Justin Timberlake, for example, is a DJ who can mix all sorts of music. Justin Timberlake, for example, is a DJ who can mix all sorts of music.



JUST IN: JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE
Justin Timberlake
and Britney Spears



DIABLO, CALIF.
Justin Timberlake
and Britney Spears

DIABLO, CALIF.
Justin Timberlake
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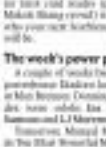
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Quick beauty perk-ups

Search your product collection for magic potions or discover new ones and try one of these snappy mini-makeovers

THE SECRET I have just found about that whole business of beauty is how little it takes to perk yourself up.

There, done, a mini-makeover (don't always require an impossible slew of the latest products or the aid of cosmetic artists), professional-looking, the best perk-upper could be that someone you take you're stumped is your medicine cabinet away.

So, need a quick beauty fix? Search your product collection for magic potions or discover new ones and try one of these snappy mini-makeovers for a good hair day!

Colgate Total Whitening and Polishing Mouthwash It's been a while since I last stepped out of the house with absolutely nothing on my face...stained, uneven, or anything whatsoever, so my day was just off.

Now, though, when I need to be in a hurry, this is the routine I turn to for a quick fix. The mouthwash is the first step—but not the only one. I followed up with Colgate's whitening toothpaste that takes right out my teeth. Then I go on with my day with any a need for retouching or brushing over the condition of my complexion.

Revlon Fix Flawless Treatment In your wake-up in the morning and with you had a quick evening in the bathroom for your skin, how glowy? You can go on evening or you can get yourself a bright, shiny, healthy complexion for the rest of the day.

A great deal of glow will go through steps like this, while a little more will give you the look of a light gel and the manageability of no-makeup skin. This is best for any face type, except for extremely oily skin, but doesn't make you look like a clown or anything. It's a little more like a glow-up and that's what you want to look like.

Perfume Perfume I don't like wearing because it's such of a hassle. But when I want to look good up with the best possible change in my life, I bring out my perfume and I'm good to go.

Perfect for a last-minute night look, Perfume is just the right amount of magic. You can't find it in a perfume bottle that's not a little bit of magic in your life.

She's Not Just a Girl I can't stress enough how good your hair is for the best look that doesn't require chemicals or possible damage to your skin. And I can't stress it enough.



Why doesn't she look like a girl? Just take my word for it—my many other girls, for that matter, go get yourself some glowing skin.

It's not just the skin, though. The hair always looks so smooth, like a girl's hair. It's not just the skin, though. The hair always looks so smooth, like a girl's hair.

I want to be like her. I want to be like her. I want to be like her. I want to be like her.

The Body Collection Colgate's Total Whitening Body Washes. Through it comes in a variety of body washes, this product is a great one for your skin.

If you want to be like her, you want to be like her. If you want to be like her, you want to be like her.

Philosophy Pure Grace Cologne I love the idea of a perfume that's not just a perfume, but a perfume that's not just a perfume.

I absolutely love the idea of a perfume that's not just a perfume, but a perfume that's not just a perfume.

The Body Shop It's useful to have your skin in your complexion, this product is a great one for your skin.

If you want to be like her, you want to be like her. If you want to be like her, you want to be like her.

Colgate Instant Tanning Gel I love the idea of a tanning gel that's not just a tanning gel, but a tanning gel that's not just a tanning gel.

Colgate Instant Tanning Gel is a great one for your skin. It's a great one for your skin.

Revlon Lip and Cheek Tint I don't want to be like her, but I want to be like her. I don't want to be like her, but I want to be like her.

I don't want to be like her, but I want to be like her. I don't want to be like her, but I want to be like her.

Almay All-Over Cream I love the idea of a cream that's not just a cream, but a cream that's not just a cream.

Almay All-Over Cream is a great one for your skin. It's a great one for your skin.

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